

# MERCATOR:

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## Commerce Retrieved.

From Saturday, July 3. to Tuesday, July 5. 1714.

*Mistakes about Commerce the Ground of all our Disputes.*

*We misapply the Peace to our own Destruction.*

*The Mistakes of the Opposers have been manifestly detected.*

*Our Trade to France has been set in a clear light by the Mercator.*

*They cannot Confute what he lays down but by Railing and Noise.*

*Demonstrations of Fact every Day Confute them.*

*They say the French will not Trade with us, and then send vast Quantities of Goods to them.*

*The flux of the French Gold among us Condemns them.*

*An Hundred thousand French Guineas Coined at the Tower into English, in one Article.*

*Some Observations on that Article.*

**M**istakes about Commerce have been the Grounds of some Disputes among us, but it must be acknowledged, that Parties and State-Breaches have been the Ground of more: People have not Argued on the Head of Trade as Traders, but as Politicians, which has so inflam'd us, that we have quite ruin'd the Argument by the Heats and Feuds among us.

We talk of Trade as we talk of Battle and Blood, all in Rage, and with Railing and Madness; whereas Trade, which is a Subject of Peace, ought to be spoken of peaceably, and abstracted from all the influence of other Differences.

We are now arriv'd to time of Peace; What Peace we enjoy at home every one knows, and he who is not sensible of it, must be stupid to a degree not easily to be accounted for; The first Blessing we ought to have felt after a long War, and which in itself promised a most visible appearance, was TRADE: But, on the contrary, this has received such a shock by our Disagreement among ourselves, that we study not to have Trade felt, nay, to prevent its being capable of feeling.

Enough has been said to Convince a Sceptick for the Proof of what has been alledged, (viz.) That we should have a Trade to France, if our Treaty of Commerce had been made Effectual, that would be very considerable, and very much to our Advantage. But in saying this, the *Mercator* raised such a Storm of Rage against his Paper, that the most demonstrated Truth could not be received if it came from this Paper; so he left the harden'd Unbelievers to talk to themselves, and turn'd his Pen to those who were to be Convinced by Reason, and Truth of Fact.

In speaking to these Men better Success has been had, and Noise and Clamour having been left to bluster by themselves. The *Mercator*

has set our Trade to France in so clear a light, both as it is now under all the Discouragements it labours under, and as it would be were those Discouragements taken off, that he thinks Posterity will not fail to see what our Circumstances have been, and where the Fault has lain, that so beneficial a Branch of our Commerce has been kept out of our Hands, which we ought to have enjoy'd as the Fruit of the Labours of a terrible War.

It is a satisfaction to all those who have a Sense of these things, and who have been for a due extending our Trade after the War, that the longer these things remain before us, the more and more Evidences appear every Day of the Advantages which might have been received by it.

The Hazards and Difficulties the French Merchants run every Day to get our Goods at whatever Duties and whatever Prices, evidently proves, that those People who so boldly averr'd that the French wanted none of our Goods, and would not buy them if the Duties were taken off, were guilty of the grossest and most impudent Falshood; the French themselves giving the Lye to the wretched Scribblers of these things every Day.

The Writers of these things themselves have Confounded things one with another, and by Contradictions in their own Arguments, given Satisfaction to the World, that what they have said has been Notoriously inconsistent, while in one breath they have affirm'd to contraries, and have proved themselves ignorant of Fact, telling us to day, that the French rival our our Manufactures in all the Ports of Europe, and outsell us, making their own Cheaper and better than ours, and to morrow, when they are pinch'd by the Argument, and the great Quantity of English Goods landed at Marseilles lies heavy upon them, they bring in the French carrying our English Manufactures abroad



abroad to Genoa, and other Ports for Sale, turning Factors for us, at the same time that these Fellows pretend they undersell us.

That infamous and ignorant Scribbler who writes that Libel upon our Trade, a Paper scandalous to his Country, publish'd by the Bribes of a Dutchman, and supported at the expence of the Betrayers of their Country, a Paper and an Author who the *Mercator* cannot Name without Horror, as Selling the Interest of Britain to Dutchmen and Foreigners. Let the ignorant Writer answer this single Query, (viz.) If the French rival our Manufactures in foreign Parts, is it probable they would carry ours to Market if they had any of their own that would Sell when they came there?

Let us come in the next place to Examine the Trade between England and France as it now stands; English Goods they must have, and English Goods they will have, tho' the Duties on them in their Country are at 70 per Cent. great Quantities are every Day sent thither; an evident Testimony of the horrible Fraud and Hypocrisy of those People who have raised the Clamours we speak of.

In the like manner they have objected, that by *English Goods and Merchandizes* in the Treaty, should be understood only our own Growth and Manufacture, and yet the very Day of the Writing of this Paper were Entred at the Custom-house, near 2000 ps. of *East-India Goods*, such as Callicoes, Muslins, Silks, Chints, &c.

Thus Demonstrations of Fact every Day contradict what these malicious People advance; and it appears, instead of the Patriots of their Cause, and the Saviours of their Trade, they are malicious Betrayers of their Country, and of its Commerce.

In the very time that we are exclaiming against their Trade, we are Coining their Gold into English Guineas; 100000 Guineas are said to be brought into the Bank this Week from the Tower, coin'd down out of French Gold, and brought over hither from France in Ballance of our Commerce. Nay some People tell us above 600000 Guineas which have been coin'd down in the Tower of London, within about 10 Months past, all being the Product of French Specie. But we will not go that length.

Now whence can they say French Specie comes? Or for what does it come over hither among us in such Quantities? Is it not for Trade? Or is it by Stealth to bring Bribes to the English Nation to betray it self, like the old Story of the Oyster-barrel? Money is the Ballance of Trade, and if this Money comes over to us for the Goods which the French take of us, what strange Work have we been making of it in Print all this while, that have been arguing against our selves, and against Matter of Fact at the same time, who while we have been making a Jest of the French Trade; bantering and insulting one another with its being of no Consequence to us; That they will take very little of us, that we lose by them, and drein our selves of our ready Money, and the like? On the contrary, we drein them of their Specie, and get all their ready Money, and trade with them infinitely to their Disadvan-

tage, and should do so infinitely more were the Trade open and free, as it might and ought to be.

It is true, that the Value put upon the *French Specie*, as in all such Cases it will be, operates upon our Exchange, and brings the French Livre down to little more than 12 d. Sterling. But it remains for our Opposers to make it appear, that this enables us to buy their Specie cheaper than its Intrinsick, which alone could be the reason of its coming out of their Country as a Merchandize: On the contrary, the height of their Gold not only keeps their own Gold at home, but is a means to carry foreign Gold to them, tho' bought too dear.

This was the Case of this Nation, when Gold was high, and Guineas went at 30 s. it brought over infinite Quantities of Gold in Specie, and our Ignorant British Merchants, tho' we must be mighty rich, and it must be a gainful Trade when they saw the Gold come tumbling in upon us, and would fain have had the Guineas establish'd at that Price, which by this time would have ruin'd us all.

For this being our Case, our Manufactures were bought by Foreigners, and paid for in Gold, the Gold they paid for them being sent in Specie, and costing those Foreigners near 40 per Cent. less than it went for here; so that no English Merchant could send any Goods abroad, the Dutch out-sold us 20 per Cent. at Cadiz in our own Goods, and got Money by it, and in time all our Substance must have been transported to Holland, while we had been fill'd with Gold at Six Pound an Ounce. But the Parliament redeem'd us by reducing the Guineas at once to their old Price; which altho' it pinch'd us hard at first, and many lost great Sums by it, who had Quantities of Gold by them, yet all People were satisfied with it at last: Just thus is it with France at this time, who have fill'd themselves with foreign Gold at a high Price; and having carry'd the Jest too far, the Exchange runs against them in Proportion, and they are fain now to part with it again much cheaper than it cost them.

### From the Custom-House.

Exported to France in Three Days,  
June 24, 25, 26.

100 Stuffs  
\* 149 Stuffs and Druggets  
107 Serges  
\* 1200 Goads Cotton  
7800 yards Flannel  
\* 24 lb. Silk Hose  
112 lb. Wrought Iron  
Certain Apparel  
4 quarter Wheat Meal  
2 Ton Cheese  
50 Firkins Butter  
14 Fodder Lead  
2 Ton 4 C. Red Lead  
13 Bags Kids Hair  
26 C. Cows Hair  
19 Bafe Viols  
177 Callicoes  
\* 5 Ton Copperas  
4 Chests Oranges  
Certain Tapistry  
117248 lb. Virginia Tobacco

